

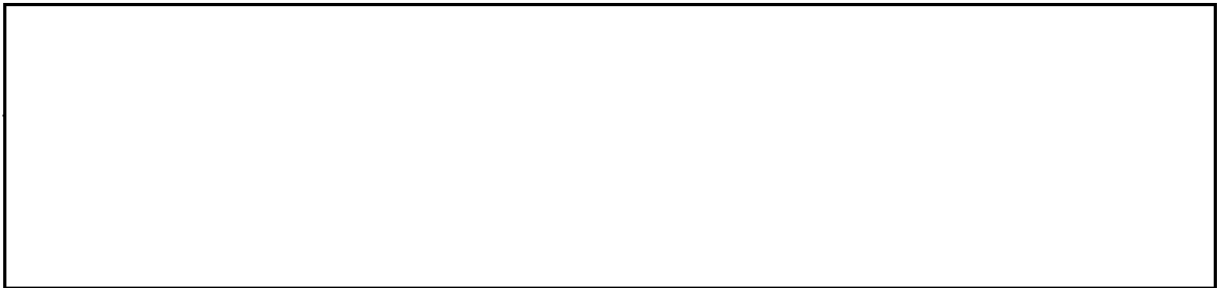
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70-5814  
OLC 70-0781

5 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT: Meeting with CIA Subcommittee Staff  
Members on Indochina Programs



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2. Bill Woodruff said there should be absolutely no reservation about either of the Agency programs in Laos and Preston seemed to agree. The group appeared to have no problems with the Khmer Krom if they are restricted to Cambodian border and sanctuary areas; but Woodruff is very concerned about the funding aspects of the program. He sees it as another SWITCHBACK-type operation and made a very strong statement that one of Senator Russell's major concerns is that the unique authority of the Director not be used to circumvent an expressed intent of Congress. He does not think the Department of Defense understands this, however.

3. You may recall that in our 2 October 1970 meeting with Senator Stennis, Mr. Packard assured Stennis that the Khmer Krom were being used strictly in support of the U.S. effort in Vietnam. However, recent messages from MACV make crystal clear that the Khmer Krom battalions are considered by MACV to be totally integrated into the FANK. Further, Ambassador Swank advises that none of the Khmer Krom battalions are operating in the Cambodian border and sanctuary areas. Two which are now located along Route 4 at Kompong Speu and Kirirom could be said to

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be keeping the Vietcong from reopening Sihanoukville but the other battalions which are stationed in Phnom Penh, Kompong Thom and in the Chenla column are clearly nowhere near the Cambodian border and sanctuary areas, nor are they involved in the interdiction of supply routes.

4. Bill Woodruff says it is still possible that Senator Russell will manage the Defense Appropriations bill on the floor. If he does, Woodruff will merely give him the facts on these programs, confident that Russell can handle any questions directed to him. If, however, Senator Ellender manages the bill, Woodruff will strongly recommend that you and Secretary Laird discuss these programs with Senator Fulbright to try to obtain his agreement on them before the bill is debated on the Senate floor. We feel that if you are willing to see Fulbright, you should do so only at the direction of the Chairman (though you might wish to stimulate such a direction).

5. Woodruff is not ruling out the possibility that a "Cooper-Church amendment" will be attached to the Defense bill on the Senate floor. If this happens the bill, like the Military Sales Act (which contained the original Cooper-Church amendment), could die in conference. Preston commented later that while Mahon would not agree to a Cooper-Church amendment he would not want the appropriations process thwarted on a major appropriation bill.

6. All three staff members indicated that while they personally accepted our "one war" approach, they were not sure that this view would be entertained generally in Congress and cautioned that it might also be used as a rationale for attacking the Administration's policies. At the conclusion of the meeting Braswell said he would like our judgment on the propriety of these programs and asked for a revised "spread sheet" listing the programs and giving our interpretation as to whether they are within the intent of Congress. We agreed to do this.

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John M. Maury  
Legislative Counsel

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### Remarks:

This has been coordinated with OPPB,  
OGC, C/FE, and SAVA.



JOHN M. MAURY  
Legislative Counsel

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